

## SENATE RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_

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### DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A SENATE RESOLUTION urging the Indiana Commission on Mental Health and Addiction to study: 1) how it is determined whether a family and/or child is eligible for services by the Department of Child Services (DCS); 2) the wrap-around services available to families involved in DCS proceedings; 3) the follow-up provided by DCS staff to determine whether services were provided and the adequacy of those services; and 4) the communication between family court and DCS to collaborate on families' involvement in each entity.

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## SIMPSON

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\_\_\_\_\_, read first time and referred to Committee on

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Introduced

Second Regular Session 117th General Assembly (2012)

## SENATE RESOLUTION

MADAM PRESIDENT:

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

A SENATE RESOLUTION urging the Indiana Commission on Mental Health and Addiction to study: 1) how it is determined whether a family and/or child is eligible for services by the Department of Child Services (DCS); 2) the wrap-around services available to families involved in DCS proceedings; 3) the follow-up provided by DCS staff to determine whether services were provided and the adequacy of those services; and 4) the communication between family court and DCS to collaborate on families' involvement in each entity.

*Whereas, Concerning a combined safety measurement including the timeliness of initiating a response to child maltreatment and the absence of the recurrence of substantiated maltreatment, Indiana was successful in 54.5% of cases. This was less than the 95% 2008 federal benchmark according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services;*

*Whereas, In 2009 there were 38 abuse and neglect fatalities, 9 of which occurred in families with at least one prior child protective services substantiated investigation;*

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*Whereas, According to DCS, the most common stress factors ranked in order of frequency for abuse cases were: 1) heavy child care responsibilities; 2) lack of parenting skills; 3) mental health problems; 4) domestic violence; and 5) pregnancy/new child;*

*Whereas, Navigating the child welfare system and knowing how to access services can be confusing to families;*

*Whereas, Wrap-around services have been shown to reduce the recurrence of abuse and help families, through individualized care, to keep multi-problem youth in their homes with families as opposed to an institutionalized setting; and*

*Whereas, DCS has developed strong collaboration efforts with many external partners including the Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, the Family and Social Services Administration, the Indiana Juvenile Judges Association, the Indiana Court Appointed Special Advocate program as well as other programs. Nevertheless, Indiana does not currently have any formal policy requirements related to ongoing consultation with external partners linked to agency planning: Therefore,*

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the  
General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1      SECTION 1. The Indiana Commission on Mental Health and  
2      Addiction to study: 1) how it is determined whether a family and/or  
3      child is eligible for services by the Department of Child Services  
4      (DCS); 2) the wrap-around services available to families involved in  
5      DCS proceedings; 3) the follow-up provided by DCS staff to determine  
6      whether services were provided and the adequacy of those services;  
7      and 4) the communication between family court and DCS to  
8      collaborate on families' involvement in each entity.

9      SECTION 2. The Commission shall make recommendations in  
10     accordance with this section.

